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(54) Container lid

(57) A lid for a container comprises two flat portions (14) spaced apart by a gap, the flat portions being joined by a circular or polygonal intermediate portion (16) and the lid being resiliently deformable in such a way that the gap between the flat portions 14 can be reduced thus reducing the overall width of the lid to enable it to be inserted into and removed from the container (10). Portion (16) may have holes (18) and the lid may be friction fitted in the container, fig. 3 (not shown) or the edges may be housed in grooves (20).

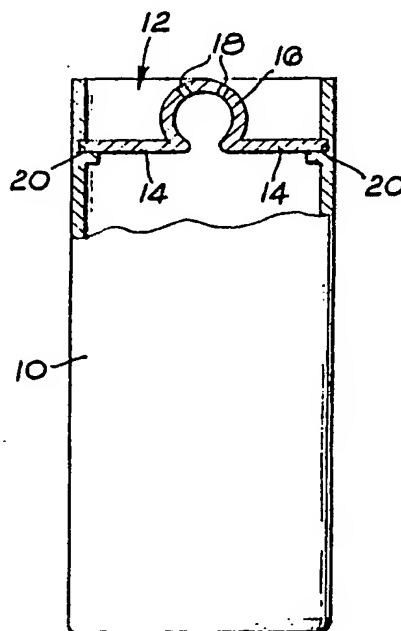


Fig. 2

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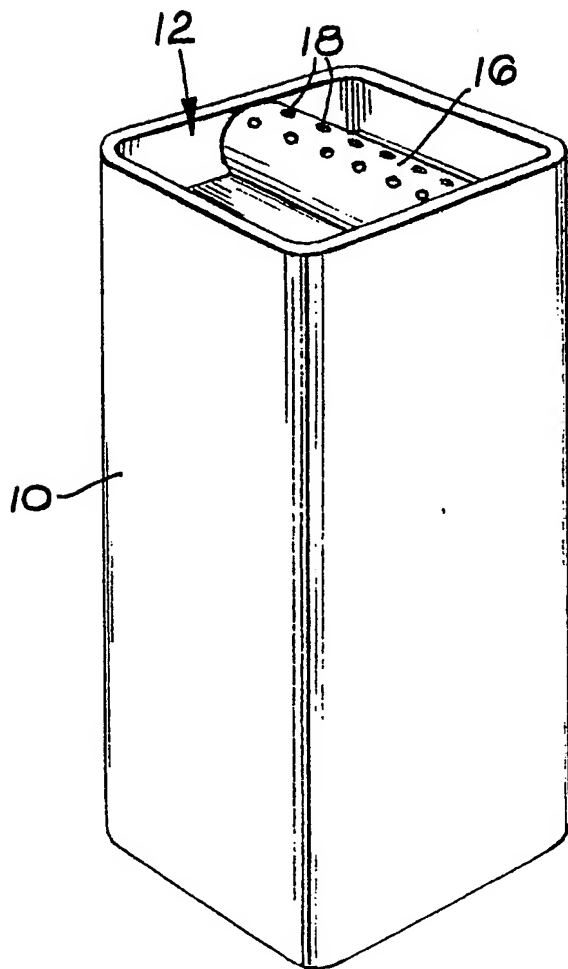


Fig. 1

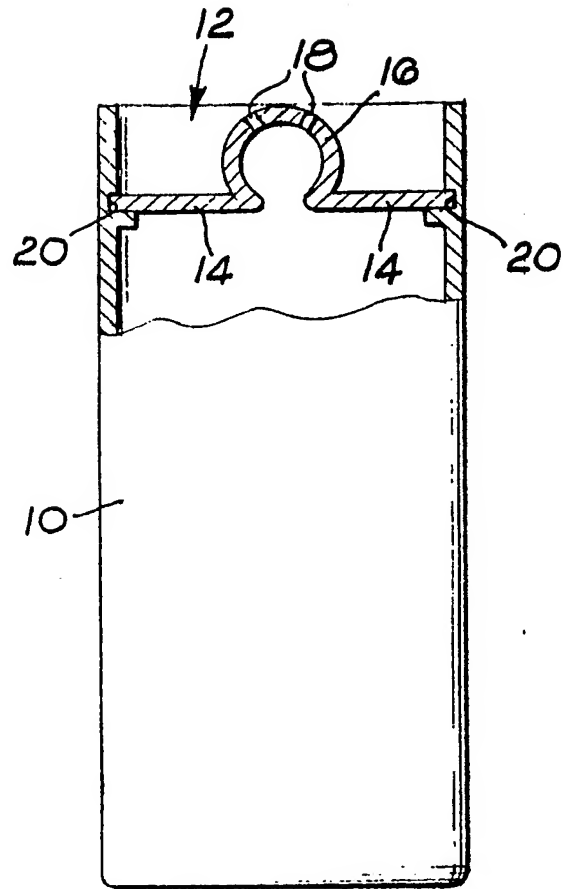


Fig. 2

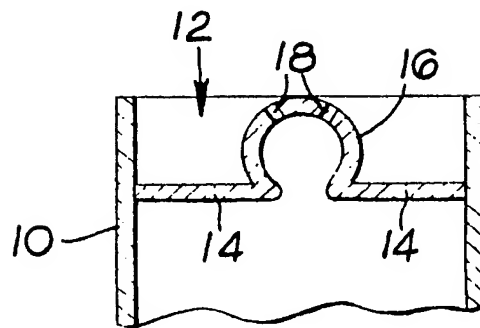


Fig. 3

SPECIFICATION

Improvements relating to containers

5 This invention relates to containers.

In accordance with the invention, a lid for a container comprises a pair of substantially co-planar areas separated by a gap, and a portion adapted for manual manipulation, which portion is integral with and extends from the adjacent edges of said areas in a direction generally normal to the plane of said areas, said portion being adapted to be manually deformed to narrow or close the gap.

Preferably the lid is made from a material having an inherent resilience so that after release of the deforming force the portion will return to its original shape and restore the gap to its original dimensions.

The lid may be made from a plastics material, and in this event may be made by extrusion in a continuous length, the material then being cut transversely of the length to make a plurality of individual lids. Alternatively, sheet material may be shaped to the required configuration by any suitable process.

Instead of using plastics material, sheet metal may be used.

The said portion may be generally circular in cross section, with the co-planar areas extending generally tangentially, the circle being interrupted by the gap. Alternatively, the portion may be polygonal in cross section, to suit particular requirements or for aesthetic purposes.

The lid may be associated with a container provided with an internal groove on a pair of opposite walls and the bases of the grooves may be spaced apart by a dimension which is slightly less than that of the lid when in a or unstressed free condition, and the mouths of the grooves being spaced apart by a dimension which is greater than that of the lid when the said portion is deformed to a maximum extent, for example to close the said gap. When one free edge of one of the co-planar areas is inserted into the one groove, and the portion is deformed, the free edge of the other co-planar area can be aligned with the opposite groove, and then when the deforming force is relaxed the lid will expand to seat in both grooves.

The invention may be applied to containers of square or rectangular shape, when the said free edges of the co-planar areas will be parallel, but it can also be applied to containers of other shapes in similar fashion.

Another possibility is to utilise one "free edge" of one of the co-planar areas as part of a hinge which attaches the lid to the container, and then the opposite free edge may be engaged in a groove or rebate in the same way as described above.

Another possibility again is for use where the container is to be ventilated, or is to be used as a dispenser for example for powdered material, such as a salt pot or pepper pot, when the said portion may be provided with a series of apertures.

The invention is illustrated in the accompanying informal drawings wherein:-

Figure 1 is a perspective view of a salt or pepper dispenser;

Figure 2 is a cross sectional elevation of the same; and

70 *Figure 3* is a perspective view of another container, with the lid in place.

Referring firstly to Figures 1 and 2, the container 10 is of generally square or rectangular section and has one end closed and the opposite end provided with a lid 12. The lid 12 comprises two oppositely extending flat portions 14 which are co-planar and are joined by an intermediate portion 16 of generally circular configuration, the intermediate portion being formed with holes 18 through which the contents of the container 10 can be dispensed. The lid 10 is formed of a suitable resiliently deformable material such that by appropriate manipulation of the intermediate portion 16, the gap between the flat portions 14 can be reduced, thus drawing the opposite edges of the flat portions 14 towards one another. In this way, the lid can be engaged and disengaged with grooves 20 formed in opposed side walls of the container 10, as will be apparent from consideration of Figure 2. The spacing between the bases of the grooves 20 is preferably slightly less than that of the width of the lid when the latter is unstressed and the mouths of the grooves are spaced apart by a dimension which is greater than that of the lid when the intermediate portion 16 is deformed to a maximum extent, for example to close the gap between the flat portions 14.

Figure 3 illustrates a modification in which the grooves 20 have been omitted. In this embodiment, the free edges of the flat portions 14 abut directly against the opposed side walls of the container 10 which are spaced apart by a dimension less than the width of the undeformed lid so that the lid is maintained in position by friction between the free edges of flat portions 14 and the side walls of the container. The relative dimensions of the lid and the spacing between the opposed side walls will be such that the frictional resistance is sufficient to resist the forces exerted on the lid when the container is inverted to dispense its contents.

CLAIMS

1. A lid for a container comprising a pair of substantially co-planar areas separated by a gap, and a portion adapted for manual manipulation, which portion is integral with and extends from the adjacent edges of said areas in a direction generally normal to the plane of said areas, said portion being adapted to be manually deformed to narrow or close the gap.

2. A lid as claimed in Claim 1 composed of a material having an inherent resilience so that after release of the deforming force the portion will return to its original shape and restore the gap to its original dimensions.

3. A lid as claimed in Claim 1 or 2 in which the portion intermediate said co-planar areas is generally circular in cross-section, with the co-planar areas extending generally tangentially, the circle

being interrupted by the gap.

4. A lid as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3, the lid having been severed from an extrusion having the same transverse section.

5 5. A container provided with a lid according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, the lid being adapted to be received within the container so that edges of said areas co-operate with opposed side walls of the container to retain the lid in position.

10 6. A container as claimed in Claim 4 in which the edges of said areas engage the side walls so as to retain the lid frictionally against removal, said side walls being spaced apart by a dimension which is less than that of the lid when the latter is
15 unstressed.

7. A container as claimed in Claim 4 in which the edges of said areas engage within grooves in the side walls, the bases of the grooves being spaced apart by a dimension which is less than that
20 of the lid when the latter is unstressed and the mouths of the grooves being spaced apart by a dimension which is greater than that of the lid when said portion is deformed to a maximum extent.

25 8. A lid for a container substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, the accompanying drawings.

9. A container having a lid substantially as
30 hereinbefore described with reference to, and as shown in, Figures 1 and 2 or Figure 3 of the accompanying drawings.

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